

January 25, 1974

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: Filing of proposed changes in Tariffs) DOCKET NO. 17,219
of The Western Union Telegraph Company)
covering charges for Teletypewriter)
Exchange (TWX) Service.) ORDER NO. 17,346✓

TO: THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

The Western Union Telegraph Company, on December 14, 1973, filed proposed changes in Tariffs covering charges for Teletypewriter Exchange (TWX) Service to become effective January 25, 1974.

The Western Union Telegraph Company is a communications common carrier providing both interstate and intrastate telecommunications services to the general public, government and industry.

In April 1971, Western Union acquired TWX service from AT&T, the associated Bell telephone companies and the independent telephone companies, referred to as Telephone Companies, and, simultaneous with the cancellation of the tariffs of the Telephone Companies, Western Union filed tariffs with this Commission which continued operation of the service under the same conditions and at the same rates the Telephone Companies had in effect. Less than a year later, Western Union filed tariff changes which extended to TWX customers the same value-additive Teleprinter Computer Services (TCS) that Western Union had developed and offered beginning in 1967 to its Telex customers. These services included among others an ability to send messages, via computer, between Telex and TWX subscribers and for Telex and TWX subscribers to use the public message telegraph system to send message for delivery to individuals not having Telex or TWX terminals. No rate revisions were involved in these new service filings for TWX customers.

A public hearing in this matter was held in the Commission's office in Columbia, S. C., on January 15, 1974. There were no appearances in opposition to this filing.

The Western Union Telegraph Company submitted the following in support of its petition:

1. The basic intrastate rates for TWX usage have not been revised since Western Union acquired the service nearly three years ago, despite the fact that the Company's labor expenses have

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increased considerably since then. In addition, the intrastate TWX rate levels and structure vary significantly among the states, with different minimum call periods, mileage zones, rates, etc. The TWX rates proposed herein, in addition to producing about a \$1.3 million increase in intrastate TWX revenue in all states, will provide uniform intrastate TWX rates and rate structures that will also match the interstate schedules, except for local service which is unique to intrastate operation.

2. The proposed revisions in intrastate TWX rates in South Carolina will not result in earnings for the telegraph Company which could be considered excessive. The Company's actual 1972 operating results in South Carolina showed a loss of \$30,175. After adjustment of the actual results for known changes including \$13,272 for increased labor expenses and \$45,085 for increased revenues from tariff revisions effectuated since January 1972 or currently pending before this Commission, the net operating result in South Carolina is a profit of \$1,638. With the inclusion of \$16,332 revenue from the TWX rate revisions sought herein the net operating result would be a profit of \$17,970, or a 6.1% rate of return.

After consideration of all the testimony taken and the facts presented, the Commission is of the opinion and so finds that the Tariffs submitted for approval on December 14, 1973, by The Western Union Telegraph Company, covering charges for Teletypewriter Exchange (TWX) Service, are fair and reasonable and should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED: That the following Revised Tariff Pages of TARIFF S.C. P.S.C. No. 1, issued by The Western Union Telegraph Company, be and the same are hereby approved to become effective on all bills issued on or after January 25, 1974:

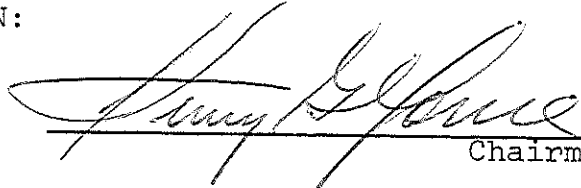
91st Revised Page 11
1st Revised Page 145
1st Revised Page 146

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That this Order remain in full force and effect until further Orders of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ATTEST:


Director - Administrative Services


Chairman

(SEAL)